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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 12, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CAN SEE THROUGH THIS FACADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise because I love my country.

Mr. Speaker, I rise some 56 days since the Mueller report was made public; 56 days, according to some, and I have been among them, to say that the President has been above the law for 56 days pursuant to the Mueller report.

But the truth is the President has been above the law for more than 2

years because, more than 2 years ago, I stood at this podium and called for the impeachment of the President of the United States of America for his obstruction that we now acknowledge was obstruction—more than 2 years. More than 2 years, now, of analysis paralysis. As Dr. King put it, the paralysis of analysis—more than 2 years.

What does this mean, paralysis analysis? Well, I have my pneumonic notes.

It means that we are allowing the perfect to be an enemy of the good, that we are waiting for the perfect opportunity to do what we should rather than doing that which is good, which we can do now.

It also means overthinking a problem and not analyzing to the extent that you never make a decision, and in some cases, it means allowing perfection protection.

Some people will do it simply because knowing you cannot achieve perfection, it becomes a means by which they can achieve perfection—perfection protection.

And along the way, over these 2 years, Mr. Speaker, here is what we have had to deal with.

The first question was: What crime has the President committed? Well, we know now that you don't have to commit a crime to be impeached. Constitutional scholars have finally acknowledged it publicly, and others have accepted it—no crime necessary. Andrew Johnson was impeached in 1868 in article 10 of the Articles of Impeachment against him, and it was not for commission of a crime.

Then we had to deal with outsourcing of the investigation. Let's not do it ourselves. Let's not do what the Framers of the Constitution intended Congress to do. Let's give it to somebody else. Let's have some special counsel do it.

And then, of course, thereafter, there was: Wait for the Mueller report. "Wait for the Mueller report," a constant re-

frain. We waited for the Mueller report. The Mueller report has been presented, some 56 days it has been made public.

And now we are dealing with the whole notion of some of these votes may be hard votes. I know a little bit about hard votes. I have got some ministers who are not as friendly as they used to be because of some hard votes that I have taken right here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

And then, of course, we have this notion that we have to have a rock-solid case. Maybe not in these words, but we have to have a rock-solid case. Again, to some extent this is analysis by paralysis.

And finally, I will mention today, this, the whole notion that "I am against impeachment, although I am for it. I am against it, but I am for it." Realizing that, in the final analysis, if we don't impeach, "Well, I was always against it"; if we do impeach, "Well, I was for it, but I just want to make sure we do it right."

"I am against it, but I am for it."

Don't you know that the American people can see through this facade? This is but a veneer. People can see beyond the veneer. People understand that you can't be for it and against it at the same time. What a paradox.

At some point, to impeach, you have to use the term "impeach." At some point, the Judiciary Committee has to be the powerful Judiciary Committee that has been of old. At some point, we have to stand up. Either we will hold a ruthless, reckless, lawless President accountable, or we are all going to be held accountable.

People are worried about the general election. Well, there is a primary before the general election. It is time for us to do our jobs. Paralysis analysis cannot prevent us from doing that which the Framers of the Constitution have accorded us as our responsibility.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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I refuse to allow this to continue. We will have impeachment of this President brought to the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the time, as time is running out for us to continue to analyze to the extent that we are paralyzed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING AMERICA'S TEACHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate America's hardworking, dedicated, and passionate teachers.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure every Member of this House can think of a teacher who had a positive influence not only on their education, but on their life.

Teachers push students to achieve their best, and they show students how to realize their full potential. Sometimes, it is the interest of just one teacher that can transform the life of a young person.

Teachers are often the most underrated, yet powerful, professionals in the entire world. They truly do shape young minds.

That is why, last week, I was proud to introduce H.R. 3108, the Teachers Are Leaders Act. This bipartisan legislation, led by Congressman BRAD SCHNEIDER, seeks to expand professional development and leadership growth opportunities for teachers.

Under the current law, the Federal Teacher Quality Partnership grant connects local schools with nearby colleges and universities to create professional development programs for new teachers. However, there are not enough opportunities for established teachers to develop leadership and peer mentoring skills that can help retain teachers and boost student achievement.

The Teachers Are Leaders Act would expand the Teacher Quality Partnership grants by making teacher leader programs focused on professional development for established teachers eligible for funding. These programs would focus on peer coaching, family and community engagement, curriculum development, and other ways to make full use of their experience as educators and leaders within their communities.

If schools want to recruit and retain high-quality teachers, then they must treat them like the professionals that they are. That means we must allow them to grow both inside and outside the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, professional development is essential in all positions, especially for those who are educating the next generation. Now I am pleased that this bipartisan legislation devotes the

resources necessary to give teachers the tools to become even stronger leaders for our youth.

Teachers lend a caring hand and extend a loving heart. They make differences in the lives of our students academically, emotionally, and physically. This legislation strengthens the teaching profession and lets them take their experience to the next level. I encourage my colleagues to support the Teachers Are Leaders Act today.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE PULSE NIGHTCLUB SHOOTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, today my community gathers in Orlando to remember 49 victims of gun violence. The Pulse shooting, 3 years ago today, was the worst terrorist attack in our Nation since 9/11.

Recall for a moment that, even now, there is no Federal law to ban LGBTQ discrimination. The House passed the Equality Act, but the Senate has refused to bring the legislation to the floor for a vote.

Yet in spite of these challenges, there are still places in America that are meant to be safe havens. The Pulse nightclub was such a place, a place where patrons could, as my bishop put it, enjoy a late night fellowship.

The victims of Pulse were not in the wrong place at the wrong time. They had every right to be there. And while Congress continues to offer thoughts and prayers, the victims were gunned down while they celebrated birthdays and family and friendships.

Let me remind my colleagues on the other side of the aisle what the Bible says. It says that "faith without works is dead."

Today we remember the victims, but their stories did not end in the early morning hours 3 years ago. The memories of those who died live on in our hearts, and the struggles and triumphs of the survivors are ever before us.

Some survivors suffered severe injuries. Others were not physically injured but still carry the invisible wounds of that tragic moment.

One survivor, Orlando Torres, said that the mental scars are never forgotten. Orlando spent hours trapped in the bathroom at Pulse, his clothes soaked in the blood of the people who had been shot. He says: "I still worry about it happening again. No matter where I am, I always look for the exit. You don't want to get cornered."

Orlando spoke about the networks of survivors who, in America, help each other after each mass shooting. He pointed out what we all now know, that after New Zealand's shooting, New Zealand took immediate action.

How many more innocent Americans need to die before we take action here?

But still, after all that Orlando has gone through, he remains positive—

simply amazing. The attacks, he says, allowed the survivors to share with the world the humanity of the LGBTQ community and show that we are all God's children. He also said: "I still go out. If we stop dancing and loving each other, they win."

Sadly, mass shootings are the product of our failure to pass legislation designed to keep guns out of the wrong hands. Many victims in the Pulse nightclub shooting and shootings across our Nation did not stand a chance of survival because they were shot with weapons designed for war. This is not the America that we were created to be.

In the days and weeks following the Pulse nightclub massacre, many of us spoke about how central Florida came together, on one accord, to help our community. I could not be prouder of the people in my hometown who came together to stand up for and stand with brokenhearted families and friends and to protect our community.

The victims of Pulse nightclub belong to us, and we will never forget the lives they lived or their tremendous potential that will never be realized. Today we remember and, through that remembrance, we transform hate into love and loss into strength.

HONORING LUTHER EUGENE ROLLINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Luther Eugene Rollins. Gene, as he was better known, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. James F. Rollins of Greer, South Carolina.

Gene, like many Americans, wanted to serve his country, and he joined the Army during the Vietnam war and was assigned to Company A in the 6th Battalion Infantry in the 9th Division.

The commander of his battalion was Captain Vernon Green, who quickly became his lifelong friend. Gene's unit was known as the Polecats or Bearcats and, in March of 1968, was assigned to the advance party in Southeast Asia.

□ 1015

While serving in combat on the front lines, he quickly became known as the "preacher" because of his daily reading of the Bible and dedicated prayer life. During an attack on his battalion, Gene was asked to lead his men in prayer, which he did on numerous occasions. Gene credits his many prayers to God as the reason for his survival during an attack when his M60 machine gun jammed and he was unable to return fire to the enemy.

Gene became a radio operator during his service in Vietnam, attaining the rank of platoon sergeant. When his best friend, Captain Green was promoted to the battalion staff, Gene was invited to join him. He declined to do